

**COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CIAP)  
PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET**

**1). Project Title:**

Beach and Back Barrier Marsh Restoration, East and Trinity Islands

**2). Entity/Individual Nominating Project:**

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government

**3). Contact Information:**

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government  
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**4). Total State CIAP Funds Requested:**

Total CIAP Funds Requested: \$20.0 million

**5). Infrastructure Funds Proposed:**

There are \$0 infrastructure funds proposed for this project.

**6). Description and Location of Project:**

East and Trinity Islands are two of five islands that make up the Isles Dernieres barrier island chain. The proposed project is in the Terrebonne Basin of CWPPRA Region 3, Terrebonne Parish, approximately 38 miles south of Houma, Louisiana. The Gulf of Mexico lies to the south.

**7). Project Type: Type 1, 2 & 4**

This project, a Barrier Island Restoration and Marsh Creation Project, meets the criteria of CIAP Project Types 1, 2 and 4. It is presented for the conservation, restoration and protection of coastal areas, to mitigate damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources and the implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan.

**8). Project Justification:**

Barrier islands are the first line of defense against storm surge and protect the interior wetlands and infrastructure from open ocean wave effects. From 1887 to 2002, the documented shoreline change

for East Island was a loss 17 of feet per year and Trinity Island lost 38.4 feet per year. A breach on the eastern end of East Island that developed in 2005, increased to approximately 4,000 feet due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Although the New Cut restoration (TE-37) CWPPRA project will begin construction this year, partial filling of the breach on the eastern end of East Island is a contracting additive alternate, and will be accomplished only if sufficient project funds are available, which is highly unlikely given the recent spikes in constructions costs. Additionally, the TE-37 project does not provide for extensive beach and back barrier marsh restoration on the eastern end behind the breach, or for back barrier marsh and beach restoration on Trinity Island. This area sustains considerable wave action and material movement not only on the Gulf shore, but also on the backside of the island due to Wine Island Pass.

The overall project goals are to fortify and extend the lives of these two barrier islands and capitalize on the success of previous CWPPRA barrier island restoration projects. Specific project goals include the introduction of new sediment into this sediment starved environment; extension of the lives of the barrier islands by increasing their width; providing a back barrier platform to enable successful island migration; and protecting the Terrebonne estuary and vegetated wetlands against the direct exposure to the Gulf of Mexico.

This project was presented at the CWPPRA PPL 16 in January 2006 but was not selected for continued investigation. No engineering and design funds have been spent on this project.

### **Preliminary Project Benefits**

- 1) The total acreage benefited is 533 acres of back marsh and 146 acres of beachfront directly restored for a total of 679 acres.
- 2) This project maintains a critical barrier island habitat and structural component of the coastal ecosystem.
- 3) The project will provide synergistic effects with other CWPPRA completed restoration projects, specifically:

TE-20 Isles Dernieres restoration, East Island completed in 1999;  
TE-24 Isles Dernieres restoration Trinity Island completed in 1999; and  
TE-37 New cut restoration, construction to begin Spring/Summer 2006.

- 4) This project may have a net positive impact on critical or non-critical infrastructure; however, "There's no question that these buffers (barrier islands and coastal wetlands) are the first line of defense against a storm. It's estimated that every mile or two of wetlands reduces storm surge by about a foot. So when we talk about creating protection equal to conditions before Katrina, we must include wetland and barrier island restoration." *Robert Dalrymple, Watermarks, Number 30, March 2006.*

### **Preliminary Estimated Construction Costs:**

\$20,000,000.00

### **Coast 2050 Strategy:**

This project meets the following Coast 2050 strategies:

- Restoring/maintaining barrier islands;

- Maintaining Shoreline Integrity;
- Utilization of offshore sand and sediment resources; and
- Vertical accumulation to achieve sustainability.

The project also meets the requirements of Action Plans EM-4 (Beneficial Use of Dredged and Non-Indigenous Material) and EM-5 (Preservation and Restoration of Barrier Islands) of the federally approved Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan of the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program and is consistent with the restoration goals identified by the Strategic Plan for Coastal Restoration adopted by the Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management and Restoration Advisory Committee and supported by the Terrebonne Parish Council.

**9). Project Cost Share:**

The project cost share is unknown at this time.

**Attachments**

1. CWPPRA Project Nomination Fact Sheet – EPA



